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REDDITCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

and

SENIOR SANITARY
INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1950.

REDDITCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR 1950.

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL: Councillor A. T. TAYLOR.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: Councillor H. R. Bird.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Councillor H. R. Bird	Councillor A. J. Jobson
„ C. H. Blackford	„ V. Long
„ W. F. Cardy	„ J. F. Mason
„ A. L. Davis	„ H. J. Paramore
„ R. D. Griffith	„ H. D. Spencer
„ Mrs. E. E. Henderson	„ A. E. Taylor
„ T. W. Hollis	„ J. H. Taylor
„ B. Hughes	„ A. P. Wells
„ J. W. Hughes	„ G. White
„ W. J. Hunt	„ J. E. Wilkinson

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS of the LOCAL AUTHORITY.

- (a) E. T. SHENNAN, M.B., B.Chir., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health (Part Time)
and Assistant County Medical Officer.

Dr. V. PUGH, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
Deputy Medical Officer of Health (Part Time)
and Assistant County Medical Officer.

- (b) G. H. CHAMPION, Cert. "S.I.B.",
Senior Sanitary Inspector,
Meat and Food Inspector,
Inspector under the Shops Acts.

G. H. SMITH, Cert. "S.I.B.",
Additional Sanitary Inspector,
Meat and Food Inspector.

S. R. BAYLIS, Cert. "S.I.B.",
Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

Miss F. Hunt — SENIOR CLERK.

Miss S. D. Stanley — JUNIOR CLERK.

Miss F. M. Bayliss — JUNIOR CLERK.

To the Chairman and Members of the
REDDITCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to present the Annual Report of the state of the public health of your district for the year ending 31st December, 1950.

The general health of the community has remained satisfactory and there is cause for congratulation on the relatively light incidence of acute anterior poliomyelitis in your district during the epidemic which affected the Midlands heavily during the Summer.

Tuberculosis continued to be of major concern and the registered cases still mounted. In this connection thanks are due to the Council for their enlightened attitude towards the re-housing of tubercular families, since there is little doubt that the early relief of overcrowding prevents many new cases developing particularly among the children.

Housing is still a major problem. Redditch has a great achievement to its credit in post-war housing, but even this relatively good progress has only scratched the surface of the problem. Many hundreds of houses are still required both for new families and to re-house families now living under unsatisfactory conditions.

It is my pleasant duty to thank the Council and members for the kindness and co-operation shown me since my appointment and I would like to record my appreciation of the help I have received from Mr. Watkins, his Officers and Staff.

My thanks are also due to Mr. Champion, Assistant Sanitary Inspectors and Staff of the Health Department for the efficiency and enthusiasm with which they have carried out their duties.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

E. T. SHENNAN,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area — 12,059 acres.

Registrar General's Estimate of resident population,
mid 1950 — 29,110
„ 1949 — 28,440
„ 1948 — 27,900
„ 1940 — 23,960

Number of inhabited houses, end of 1950 — 9,850
„ „ 1949 — 8,198
„ „ 1948 — 8,292
„ „ 1940 — 7,224

Rateable Value — £149,891.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate — £585.

VITAL STATISTICS.

(1949 figures given in brackets).

POPULATION.

The population at 29,110 showed a further substantial increase of 670 over last year's figure (28,440). 229(199) of this increase was due to an excess of births over deaths, the rest being accounted for by immigration.

The number of immigrants appeared to be substantially less than the previous year 441 (741) but must still be considered as complicating the housing problem which remained serious.

LIVE BIRTHS.

LIVE BIRTHS			
	M	F	Total
Legitimate ...	261	240	501
Illegitimate ...	16	7	23
Total ...	277 (278)	247 (257)	524 (535)

BIRTH RATE (Births per 1,000 population):—

1950	1949	1948	1940	1950 (England & Wales).
18.00	18.80	18.14	16.15	15.8

ILLEGITIMACY RATE (Total live illegitimate births per 1,000 total live births):—

1950	1949	1948	1940
<u>45.80</u>	<u>69.15</u>	<u>39.50</u>	<u>23.70</u>

The Birth Rate at 18.00 was lower than that of the previous year (18.80) but still well above that for England & Wales, 15.80, which had fallen in like proportion (16.70).

The Illegitimacy Rate showed a substantial decline, 45.80 (69.15).

STILL BIRTHS.

STILL BIRTHS			
	M	F	Total
Legitimate ...	7	1	8
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—
Total ...	7 (8)	1 (5)	8 (13)

Still-Birth Rate (Still-births per 1,000 live and still births):

1950	1949	1948	1940
<u>15.00</u>	<u>23.72</u>	<u>21.27</u>	<u>34.91</u>

The still birth rate showed a substantial fall over last year's figure (23.72) and under half that for 1940 (34.91).

The Rate of Still-Births per 1,000 of the population of 0.27 was well below the figure for England & Wales of 0.37.

DEATHS.

DEATHS		
M	F	Total
155 (162)	140 (167)	295 (329)

Death Rate (Deaths per 1,000 population):—

1950	1949	1948	1940	1950 (England & Wales).
<u>10.13</u>	<u>11.57</u>	<u>11.00</u>	<u>13.11</u>	<u>11.60</u>

The Death Rate, 10.13, showed a substantial decrease over the previous year (11.57) and was well below that for the whole country, 11.60.

The principal causes of death were as follows by percentage:—

1. Diseases of the Heart and Circulatory System (including Inter-cranial vascular lesions) 48.4% of all deaths.
(42.9%)
2. Cancer (all forms) and other malignant diseases 14.0% „ „ „
(14.6%)
3. Respiratory Diseases (excluding T.B.) 8.8% „ „ „
(13.7%)
4. Tuberculosis 3.3% „ „ „
(2.4%)

The percentage of deaths falling into the major groups showed some slight variation with the previous year. Deaths from disease of the heart and circulatory system remains the major group.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

MATERNAL DEATHS			
Puerperal Sepsis	0		
Other maternal cause	0		
Total	0		(2)

No deaths from childbirth took place during the year—a very happy state of affairs.

INFANT AND NEONATAL MORTALITY.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR			
	M	F	Total
Legitimate	6	3	9
Illegitimate	2	—	2
Total	8 (12)	3 (7)	11 (19)

DEATHS OF INFANTS WITHIN THE FIRST FOUR WEEKS			
	M	F	Total
Legitimate	4	—	4
Illegitimate	1	—	1
Total	5	—	5

Death Rates of Infant and Neonatal Deaths.

	(England & Wales).			
	1950	1949	1940	1950
Death rate of legitimately born infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 legitimate births	17.90	36.14	68.80	-
Death rate of all illegitimately born infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 illegitimate births	87.00	27.00	111.00	-
Death Rate of all infants under 4 weeks of age per 1,000 live births	9.54	-	-	-
Death rate of all infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births	20.99	35.50	69.77	29.80

Causes of Infant Deaths.

Gastro-enteritis	4 (1 neonatal)
Congenital deformity	4 (3 „)
Asphyxia neonatalum	1 (1 „)
Broncho-pneumonia	1
Accident	1

The number of infant deaths showed a considerable fall over the previous year. There were 8 less deaths. For the first time the Neonatal deaths have been given (i.e. the deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age). This showed that 5, just under half, of the infant deaths occurred in this period.

It was satisfactory to note that the infant death rate, for all infants, of 20.99 was well below that for the whole country of 29.80 per 1,000 live births. It was noted that illegitimate babies showed a very much lower chance of survival—the numbers, however, were too small to be significant.

It was interesting to note that 3 out of the 6 infant deaths among those surviving the neonatal period succumbed to gastro-enteritis. This disease is peculiar to artificially fed babies and is thought to be caused, in some cases, by lack of care in hygienic preparation of feeds. These deaths all occurred under 6 months of age.

DEATHS BY AGE		
Age in years	1950 %	1949 %
0 - 1 ...	3.73	3.61
1 - 14 ...	2.37	1.29
15 - 24 ...	1.35	2.00
25 - 64 ...	34.57	32.90
65 and over	58.00	60.24

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE REDDITCH URBAN DISTRICT, 1950.

CAUSE OF DEATH	M	F	Total	Mortality Rate per 1,000 Pop. 1950	Mortality Rate per 1,000 Pop. 1949
1. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	6	1	7	0.24	0.28
2. Other forms of Tu- berculosis	0	3	3	0.10	0
3. Syphilitic Diseases ...	0	0	0	0	0.035
4. Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0
5. Whooping Cough ...	0	0	0	0	0
6. Meningococcal Infect- ions	0	0	0	0	0
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	0
8. Measles	0	0	0	0	0
9. Other infectious and Parasitic Diseases	1	0	1	0.034	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	3	5	8	0.27	0.35
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ...	5	0	3	0.17	—
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	0	3	3	0.10	0.32
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	0	2	2	0.068	0.21
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	20	8	28	0.96	0.77
15. Leukaemia, Aleukae- mia	1	0	1	0.034	—
16. Diabetes	0	2	2	0.068	0.16
17. Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	18	23	41	1.40	—
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	14	10	24	0.824	—
19 Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	1	4	5	0.17	—
20. Other Heart Disease	31	35	66	2.267	—
21. Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	4	3	7	0.24	0.24
22. Influenza	1	1	2	0.068	0.21
23. Pneumonia	2	1	3	0.10	0.59
24. Bronchitis	13	9	22	0.75	0.81
25. Other Respiratory Diseases	2	2	4	0.137	0.16
26. Ulcer of the Stomach and Duodenum ...	2	0	2	0.068	0.10
27. Gastritis, Enteritis, and Diarrhoea ...	2	3	5	0.17	—
28. Nephritis and Neph- rosis	0	3	3	0.10	0.24
29. Hyperplasia of Pros- trate	5	0	5	0.17	—
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion ...	0	0	0	0	—
31. Congenital Malform- ations	2	2	4	0.137	0.32
32. Other defined and ill- defined diseases ...	15	18	33	1.133	—
33. Motor Vehicle Accid- ents	3	0	3	0.10	0.21
34. All Other Accidents	2	1	3	0.10	—
35. Suicide	2	1	3	0.10	0.16
36. Homicide and Opera- tions of War ...	0	0	0	0	—
TOTAL ...	155	140	295	10.13	11.57
(Total 1949) ...	(162)	(167)	(329)		

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services.

(a) CLINICS AND TREATMENT SERVICES.

Clinic	Situation	Time of Holding
Redditch Infant Welfare Centre	Old Vicarage, Bromsgrove Road	Monday and Tuesday 2 p.m.
Astwood Bank Infant Welfare Centre (including Diphtheria Immunisation)	Church Hall, Astwood Bank	2nd and 4th Mondays 2 p.m.
Feckenham Infant Welfare Centre (including Diphtheria Immunisation)	Village Hall, Feckenham	1st Wednesdays 2 p.m.
School Clinic	Old Vicarage	Thursdays 11.30 a.m.
Ante-natal Clinic	Old Vicarage	Tuesdays 10 a.m.
Orthopaedic Clinic	Old Vicarage	Mondays 10 a.m.
Ophthalmic Clinic	Old Vicarage	By appointment
Tuberculosis Clinic	The Dispensary, Elm Road	Fridays 2 p.m.
Diphtheria Immunisation	Old Vicarage	2nd and 4th Thursdays 9.30 a.m.
Vaccination	Old Vicarage	4th Thursdays 10.30 a.m.

The County Council continued to provide, on their own behalf or administer as Agents for the Regional Hospital Board, the above health services in the district.

Thanks are due to the enthusiasm of the voluntary workers at the Infant Welfare Clinics whose aid was much appreciated by the Doctors and Nursing Staff.

(b) MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING.

Three agencies provided the Midwifery Services in the district, (1) the family doctor—ante and post-natal care and home confinements, (2) the County Council—ante-natal clinics and district midwives, (3) the Regional Hospital Board—hospitals for delivery and treatment.

The County Council provided nurse-midwives who attended general nursing and midwifery cases in the home.

The Redditch Nurses attended:—

142 cases as midwives.

18 cases as maternity nurses assisting the family doctor.

The number of hospital beds available did not meet the demand but beds were allocated on grounds of need and urgency by the County Medical Officer acting as Agent for the Regional Hospital Board.

It is hoped that when the new Maternity Unit proposed at All Saints' Hospital, Bromsgrove is fully functioning the bed position will be much improved.

(c) HEALTH VISITING.

The County Council continued to provide a Health Visiting Service.

The Health Visitors serving the district were:—

Nurse E. Nock, "Elmsdale", Hewell Road, Redditch.

Nurse L. K. Flood, High Street, Feckenham.

Nurse M. Hill, Old Vicarage, Bromsgrove Road, Redditch.

It is not generally realised that these nurses, as well as being nurse-midwives are especially trained in the care of the mother and young child. They are available to give advice on all health matters in the home or at the clinic but are especially interested in the care of the pregnant woman, the mother and her baby. They also act as School Nurses.

During the year four infants under 5 months of age died of gastro-enteritis. This disease is peculiar to artificially fed babies and rarely occurs in babies fed at the breast. Many infants' deaths could be avoided if advice was sought in the promotion and maintenance of breast feeding. The Health visitors are available to give advice on all matters of infant care and are especially keen to encourage mothers to breast feed.

Too often do some mothers rush to books to find out how to rear their children, scorning the use of the clinic or the health visitor. How much better would it be to seek the advice of these nurses, well experienced in the difficulties and anxieties of the mother and her newborn infant? It is frequently the mother who does not avail herself of the clinic facilities or the doctor's advice who is most in need of help.

The Health Visitor should be recognised as a member of the Health Team helping, with the family doctor and the District Nurse, with the care of mothers and their children.

(d) SCHOOL HEALTH.

The County Council continued to provide an extensive school health service. School Medical Officers carried out inspection of children and regular Minor Ailment Clinics were held at the Old Vicarage. Specialist, Ophthalmic and Orthopaedic Clinics were also held.

It was unfortunate that during the latter part of the year the Dental Clinic had to be discontinued due to a shortage of dental officers in the School Dental Service.

It was a tragedy that with the provision of a national dental service the School Dental Service should have received a well-nigh mortal blow. Many dental officers left the service, attracted by the better remuneration of private practice, and the salaries offered in the service attracted no new recruits. It is especially sad because the School Dental Service was beginning to make the school children conscious of the value of dental hygiene, so doing much towards the general improvement in the standard of health.

Unfortunately there is nothing to replace this service, as private practitioners have not the time to devote to the regular dental inspection and treatment of the school child.

(e) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION AND SMALLPOX VACCINATION.

The County Council continued to provide this service. It was administered locally by the District Medical Officer of Health. Figures are available under Section F.

(f) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Public Health Laboratory Services, Royal Infirmary, Worcester.

The County Laboratory, County Buildings, Worcester.

These two laboratories rendered valuable service towards the detection and prevention of spread of disease in the district. Bacteriological examinations were carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service and the County Laboratory carried out chemical analyses of water, ice cream, etc.

(g) HOSPITALS.

The following Hospitals were available to the residents of the district:—

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Infectious Diseases ... | Hayley Green Isolation Hospital, Halesowen, and Little Bromwich Fever Hospital. |
| 2. Maternity | The Redditch Maternity Hospital, Mary Stephens Maternity Hospital, Stourbridge; and Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital, Stourport. |
| 3. General Medical and Surgical Cases ... | Smallwood Hospital, Redditch, and various Birmingham Hospitals. |
| 4. Children's Diseases | The Children's Hospital, Birmingham. |

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 5. Venereal Disease ... | The General Hospital, Birmingham
Royal Infirmary, Worcester. |
| 6. Aged Chronic Sick ... | All Saints' Hospital, Bromsgrove. |
| 7. Mental Illness ... | Barnsley Hall Mental Hospital,
Bromsgrove. |

All these hospital services with the exception of the Redditch Maternity Hospital, a voluntary body, were provided by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

(h) AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The County Council provided an extensive ambulance service throughout the County. A section operating in Redditch served the district.

(i) HEALTH EDUCATION.

The Council subscribes to the Central Council for Health Education, whose services were utilised during the year for the provision of leaflets and posters. Posters were displayed, in anticipation of the various epidemic diseases, at many points in the town. Posters were also circulated to factories, places of entertainment, and other places where people congregate, in connection with the general promotion of health and the prevention of infectious diseases. The Department has the use of one E.M.B. notice board in Evesham Street, and the windows of the Health Department were fitted with backboards for the display of posters. Increasing use will be made of the service of the Central Council as more Health Education is undertaken.

(j) DAY NURSERY.

The Day Nursery continued at Church Green providing accommodation for some thirty babies and toddlers. It continued to take in only babies from unmarried mothers, from widows and from mothers whose husbands were ill and who were thus compelled to go out to work.

(k) HOME AND DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

The service continued to function well during the year. It is conducted through the agency of the W.V.S. for the County Council by Mrs. L. M. Brown who is to be complimented on a very valuable and efficient service.

The number of Home Helps at present employed is 4 full time. The service is available for families during confinement or illness of the mother, in cases of chronic sickness and for old people. A charge is made which can be scaled down in cases of need.

(l) CARE OF THE AGED.

During the summer the W.V.S. instituted a "meals-on-wheels" service for old people in their homes. This service is as yet limited by the funds and equipment available. It now operates one day a week when 24 - 26 meals are delivered. The W.V.S. are to be congratulated for their initiative in this direction.

During the latter part of the year an Old Peoples Welfare Council was established with representation of all the voluntary bodies in the town with the care of old people at heart. It was hoped that with the formation of this Council it would be possible to co-ordinate the efforts of all these bodies towards easing the lot and overcoming the loneliness and isolation of the old people of Redditch. The Council is as yet in its infancy but the enthusiasm of its members is such that I am sure much good will come out of its work in the future.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

A detailed report of the sanitary work carried out during 1950 is given by the Senior Sanitary Inspector. The district was kept thoroughly inspected throughout the year and in view of all the difficulties and restrictions that have to be overcome, good progress was made in the various branches of sanitation.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Last year an agreement was reached with the East Worcestershire Waterworks Co. and the Droitwich Rural District Council for a water mains extension from Feckenham to supply the Berrow Hill and Bradley Green district. This scheme, which will cost approximately £5,000 for the Redditch portion of the extension and involve the Council in an annual expenditure of £500 over the estimated income, was expected to be completed in 1950, but unfortunately, this was not possible.

No further major water extensions will be necessary and we can consider Redditch as being one of the best served districts of its kind, having regard to its rural character outside the town area.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The main sewage disposal works are situated at Studley Road, Redditch. The works are modern, having been constructed during the past war. There are four other disposal plants that serve Astwood Bank, Hunt End, Webheath and Feckenham. A reconstruction of the Feckenham plant will be considered as soon as possible. The need for this has become apparent due to the additional houses that have been connected to the sewer as a result of the pail closet conversions.

RIVER POLLUTION PREVENTION.

This work is dealt with by the County Council.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

There was continued good progress during the year in the provision of new houses. Redditch must have been well in advance of similar local authorities in this matter. However, it would appear that the fame of Redditch as a progressive housing authority must have spread abroad and attracted many 'house-starved' families to the district. The demands of the industries in the town for workers was by no means satisfied and immigration continued, helped by the legend of 'plenty of houses'. The number of post-war houses built would have begun to meet the needs of the town had the population remained static at the pre-war level, and the Council would have been able to apply itself to the clearance of sub-standard property. However, the increase in population of 6,000 in ten years has prevented this entirely.

The position is especially serious because building costs are ever on the increase and with them the rents of new houses. These rents are, in some cases, already beyond the means of the people the Council are out to help—those in overcrowded and sub-standard dwellings. Cheaper forms of construction and equipment and smaller houses will have to be considered if rents are to be kept within reasonable bounds.

Almost 1,000 post-war council houses have been built in Redditch. At least 1,000 more dwellings are needed for the present population. A large number of the housing applicants who approach me for help are so desperate for accommodation that a structurally sound dwelling of the simplest nature with adequate sanitary provision would meet their needs.

There is much unsound and sub-standard housing in Redditch, steadily deteriorating, which in not many years will be unfit for habitation. Unless the speed of building can be accelerated the housing position will continue grave for many years to come.

Figures at 31st December, 1950:—

Number of Houses built by Council during year ...	...	176
Number of houses built by private enterprise ...	...	39
Total number of post-war Council houses built ...	...	928
Number of applicants for Council houses ...	approx.	1300

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

FOOD PREMISES.

Sanitary inspections of food premises continued during the year. Efforts were redoubled to bring managers and staff to the full realisation of their duties in providing clean and safe food for their customers. The standard of premises was not in all instances of a sufficiently high standard but with persuasion many proprietors were prevailed upon to improve their facilities.

However, hygienic premises alone will not provide safe food if the food-handlers themselves are not well versed in the necessity for absolute cleanliness in handling of foodstuffs and the dangers always present from bacterial contamination.

The District Council adopted the Model Bye-laws, in connection with the Safe Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food, made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 in March, 1950. These were confirmed by the Minister of Food on 22nd May, 1950 and come into operation on the 26th June, 1951.

It is hoped that these bye-laws will help to strengthen the authority's hand in dealing with premises and managements who do not maintain a sufficiently high standard of food-handling.

Notes have been prepared for the guidance of managements and their staffs to be issued with copies of the bye-laws when they come into force.

Food Poisoning.

Although, outbreaks of food poisoning throughout the country showed an increase during the year and were a cause for much concern no outbreaks were reported in Redditch. There was one isolated case of food poisoning of unknown origin.

MEAT.

Much improvement was made in the transport of meat. All transport used had been provided with hanging fitments and the handling of the meat was much improved.

ICE-CREAM.

The standard of the quality and cleanliness of ice-cream continued to improve. All samples taken during the year proved to have a satisfactory fat content and were bacteriologically pure.

The majority of retailers favoured ice-cream obtained from the large well-known manufacturers. The producer-retailers tended in the main to favour the use of 'cold mix' mixtures obtained from reputable manufacturers. Only three producer-retailers made their own mixtures and used their own efficient pasteurisation plants.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector is to be congratulated on the very high standard reached.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING 1950.

Disease	Corrected Notifications	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Smallpox	0	0	0
Diphtheria	1	1	0
Scarlet Fever	30	10	0
Measles	466	0	0
Whooping Cough	86	0	0
Typhoid Fever	0	0	0
Paratyphoid	0	0	0
Dysentery	1	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	1	0
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	2	2	0
Encephalitis	0	0	0
Erysipelas	1	1	0
Acute Pneumonia	3	1	0 (3)
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0
Food Poisoning	1	0	0
Totals	593	16	0 (3)

The figures given in the table are of corrected notifications i.e., confirmed cases.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.

The District was very fortunate to escape lightly in the extensive epidemic of acute anterior poliomyelitis which occurred in the Midlands during the summer. There were two cases notified—one in Redditch and one in Astwood Bank. There was no connection discovered between the cases and no connection could be traced with cases occurring in surrounding districts. They were both paralytic in type and both cases retained some degree of paralysis on recovery from acute illness.

DIPHTHERIA.

There was one case of diphtheria notified during the year. Two carriers were found in the family. All were treated in hospital. No further cases resulted.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The "Immunisation State" of Redditch children on December 31st, 1950 was as follows:—

Age	0-1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-9	10-15	Total
Number Immunised	26	323	375	407	378	1,994	1,558	5,016
Population (approx)	...	...	...	2,682		3,953		6,635
% Immunised	...	...	...	56.26%		89.85%		75.6%

The comparable percentage figures on December 31st, 1949 were:—

% Immunised	...	...	...	55.87%		91.87%		77.82%
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The number of children immunised during the year was as follows:—

Primary Immunisations:

Under 5 years old	...	...	...	377
5 - 14 years old	...	...	...	16
Re-inforcing "Booster" injections	...	...	...	286

The number of children immunised during the year showed a substantial fall. This was due to the suspension of immunisation during the summer poliomyelitis epidemic. The reason for this suspension was the finding, on the investigation of a previous epidemic, of a connection between recent immunisation and the site of paralysis in a small number of cases of anterior poliomyelitis.

It appeared from these investigations, that if a recently immunised child became infected with the poliomyelitis virus and paralysis did develop, the limb in which the injection had been given tended to be involved first. This risk was extremely slight, but much publicity was made of the findings and parents, naturally, did not wish to take even this very small chance. Therefore, it was decided by the County Medical Officer to suspend immunisation for the duration of the epidemic.

The fall in the number of children immunised did not, however, markedly affect the percentage of children protected from Diphtheria and it is hoped that the deficiency will be corrected during the next year.

The percentage of school children immunised was high—89.85% but there was still room for improvement in the percentage of babies and those under school age immunised—56.26%.

Diphtheria is by no means a thing of the past. Carriers of the disease are frequently found and when they pass their infection on to un-immunised children, it is usually in a very severe form. Immunised children can contract the disease but rarely die from its affects, but a high percentage of un-immunised children do succumb.

Every effort must be made to persuade the parents of all children, especially babies, to have them fully protected by immunisation.

SMALLPOX.

No cases of smallpox occurred in the District.

Vaccination.

NUMBER OF PERSONS VACCINATED OR RE-VACCINATED DURING 1950.					
AGE AT DATE OF VACCINATION	Under 1	1-14	5-14	15 or over	Total
Number Vaccinated	148	111	14	1	274
Number Re-vaccinated	—	—	4	29	33

SCARLET FEVER

Notifications of Scarlet Fever increased during the year.

This disease consists, in the main, of a 'sore throat' and a 'scarlet' rash. Some individuals may suffer from a similar throat condition caused by the same organism and be quite as ill as their "scarlet" fellows but do not produce a rash. These cases are not notifiable but are equally infectious and liable to suffer the same complications which follow Scarlet Fever.

Throat infections in children should not be neglected but medical advice should be sought. Many chronic, heart and rheumatic conditions may have their origin in the 'sore throat'.

MEASLES.

With 466 cases notified, measles broke away from its usual biennial periodicity by more than doubling last year's incidence (194). In two years at least one tenth of the estimated child population have suffered from the disease.

Fortunately, the severity of the disease, except in a few cases, was very slight and complications were few.

However, serious complications can arise. One wonders whether many parents do not take measles too lightly as an "inevitable" childish complaint and fail to take adequate precautions to prevent their children passing the condition on to their fellows. It is recognised that, when both parents are working, a child must be very ill to merit one parent staying away from work to look after him—Is it fair on the child? Is it fair on his fellows? The severity of the disease can be greatly reduced by early treatment in bed, the earlier to bed the less likelihood there is of infection being passed on. High rates of incidence of diseases of childhood are one of the penalties consequent on the employment of the mothers of young children in industry.

WHOOPING COUGH.

The incidence of Whooping Cough increased to almost four times that of the previous year. There were no deaths.

This disease is, at present, responsible for more deaths than any other common infectious disease of childhood and is second only in prevalence to Measles. It is extremely debilitating and can give rise to serious and lasting complications especially in the very young.

Whooping Cough, like Measles, appears to be considered an “inevitable” childhood complaint, not always demanding the care it deserves.

New vaccines are on trial, in certain areas, for immunisation against this disease. It is hoped that, in the not too distant future, as sure a preventative inoculation as that available for combating diphtheria will be found. Several vaccines are already available and have been for some years. They are employed by many doctors but their efficacy is not known for certain, though they are thought to lessen the severity of the disease.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Tuberculosis continued to be notified to the Urban District and a register kept. The Regional Hospital Board was responsible for the treatment and the County Council for the prevention of the spread of the disease and the after-care of the patients. The Tuberculosis Officers were employed by the Hospital Board but were under the direction of the County Medical Officer where prevention and after-care were concerned.

A Tuberculosis Dispensary continued to function at Elm Road and patients were X-rayed at Smallwood Hospital, Redditch.

TUBERCULOSIS INCIDENCE AND MORTALITY DURING 1950.

AGE	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15—	4	2	0	1	0	1	0	1
25—	6	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
35—	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
45—	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
55—	0	1	0	0	3	1	0	1
65 and over	3	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
Totals	17	7	1	2	5	2	1	2

The number of cases on the register on December 31st, 1950 was:—

	M.	F.	Total	Total on December 31st, 1949.
Pulmonary	82	52	134	125
Non-Pulmonary	12	12	24	25
Total	94	64	158	150

During the year there were 24 (23) new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 3 (6) new cases of Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis reported. There were 10 (8) deaths from Tuberculosis. The number on the register continued to rise showing an increase of 8 over the previous year.

These figures showed no improvement on last year.

Bad housing conditions and lack of hospital facilities are probably two of the main factors having a bearing on this disease which is responsible for over 350 deaths per week throughout England and Wales. The Redditch Urban District Council is taking a very realistic view of the situation and gives high priority in re-housing to families in which tubercular patients are living in unsatisfactory conditions. Sanatorium beds, however, are still too few in number and the waiting time for admission is too long. The advantage of early diagnosis of infectious pulmonary cases are often negated, from the public health point of view, if they cannot at once be removed from contact with the healthy members of their families. Too often do these delays before admission result in new cases which should not have occurred. Not until there is nursing and other staff available to man sufficient tuberculosis sanatorium beds and greatly reduce this waiting time, will the number of 'cures' outnumber the new cases and so cause numbers on the register to fall.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector for the Year 1950.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Redditch Urban District Council.*

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my twelfth annual report. In accordance with the wishes of the Health Committee I have concentrated on the conversion of pail closets and during the year under review, 56 have been abolished and converted to the water carriage system. Water supplies and washing facilities have been improved at these premises where necessary.

Every effort is being made to catch up with the deterioration of premises during the war years and despite shortage of material and labour, improvements were effected at 537 premises.

It will be noted that of the 23 water samples taken, 19 were unsatisfactory. They refer mainly to the Berrow Hill area and a scheme has been approved to extend a mains service to this area.

I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their co-operation in implementing the recommendations of the department and to my colleagues and staff for their support and assistance rendered to me during the year.

A summary of the work of the department is as follows:—

INSPECTIONS.

Accumulations									
Found	—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Animals Kept	—	Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	...	135
		Fowls, Pigeons, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Complaints	—	Total number investigated	...	...	...	...	...	...	660
Cottagers' Pigs	—	No. of notifications of slaughter	...	...	...	...	...	...	343
		No. of pigs inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	182
Drainage	—	No. of drains found choked	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
		No. of drains found defective	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
		No. of drains tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	205
		Visits to works in progress	...	...	...	...	...	...	302
		Visits to premises re cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	85

Dwelling Houses	—	Visits to applicants for council houses	1,136
		No. inspected re repairs	1,441
		Re-inspections	1,650
		No. inspected re overcrowding	71
		No. found dirty	12
		No. found verminous (Premises)	18
		No. found verminous (Persons)	—
		No. of systematic inspections	115
Rodent Control	—	No. of premises visited	1,084
		No. of premises found infested	233
Infectious Diseases		Visits re Scarlet Fever	29
		Visits re Diphtheria	1
		Visits re Other Diseases	51
Factories	—	With mechanical power	63
		Without mechanical power	3
		Bakehouses	25
		Other Premises	7
Food Premises	—	Butchers shops or stalls	59
		Confectioners	15
		Dairies and Milk shops	73
		Fishmongers and Fried Fish shops	19
		Greengrocers and Grocers	64
		Licensed Premises	4
		Ice Cream Vendors and Manufacturers	132
		Ice Cream Samples taken	20
		Preparation of potted meat etc.	11
		Restaurants, Cafe kitchens	43
		Factory canteens	22
Knackers Yard	—		6
Shops Acts	—		37
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.			29
Water Supplies	—	Visits to premises re wells	82
		No. of Samples taken	23
Local Authority			
Premises	—	Tips	22
		Sewage Works	12
		Sanitary Conveniences	8
		Swimming Baths	9
		Samples of water taken from baths	6
Visits made to Premises re Building Licences			41
		Miscellaneous visits	413
Total number of Inspections ...			6,893

IMPROVEMENTS.

Houses generally repaired	180
Wash-houses repaired	61
Water closets repaired or renewed	77
Pail closets converted to water closets	56
Pail closets repaired	3
Waste water closets abolished	5
Trough closets converted to water closets	7
Houses cleansed	12
Verminous premises disinfested	18
Choked drains cleared	28
Drains reconstructed	63
Drains repaired	10
Wells abolished and mains supplies laid on	2
Cesspools emptied	5
Cesspools abolished	2
Dustbins provided (by owner)	52
Dustbins provided (by Council)	21
Accumulations removed	19

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS AND FLEAS.

Eighteen houses, including five council houses, were found to be infested with bugs and fleas. D.D.T. is used for disinfestation either with Zaldecide or Kerosene. In five cases, second treatments were necessary.

MILK SUPPLY.

The register contains 66 distributors, all of which were visited during the year under review. In five cases, attention had to be directed to defects in the condition of the premises which were remedied.

Complaints were received of dirty bottles sent out by the Red-ditch Pure Milk Co. After investigation a decided improvement was noted.

Twenty-two samples of milk (12 tuberculin tested, 4 pasteurised, 3 sterilised and 3 undesignated) were taken for examination. Three of the samples were also submitted for biological examination (detection of tubercle bacillus). Satisfactory reports were received in respect of all the samples.

Licences granted during the year for the sale of designated milks were as follows:—

Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	8
Pasteurised	...	...	11
Sterilised	...	...	7

WATER SUPPLIES.

Water is supplied throughout the district by the East Worcestershire Waterworks Co. Four samples of mains water were taken for analysis all of which were satisfactory.

Twentythree samples of water from wells were taken, of which nineteen were unfit for drinking. The unsatisfactory samples were taken mainly from the Noahs Green and Berrow Hill area and a scheme has been approved to extend the mains water supply.

Approximately 133 premises, including outlying farms and dwellings, obtain their water from wells. At least 40% of these are shallow wells subject to surface pollution. Two such wells were abolished during the year and mains water laid on.

Mr. F. H. Bullock, Water Engineer, East Worcestershire Waterworks Co. informs me that during the year 1950, the following extensions of water mains were carried out:—

Batchley Estate	...	...	1,225 yards of 3-inch main.
Cemetery Lane	...	...	184 " " " "
Walkwood Road	...	...	54½ " " " "
Abbeydale Estate	...	...	97 " " " "

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Byelaws made under the provisions of Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, became operative in June, 1950, and their object is to secure the observance of sanitary and cleanly practices and conditions in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air.

A draft pamphlet "Hints for Food Handlers" was later in the year approved by the Health Committee and arrangements made to circulate copies to all food establishments early in 1951.

A total of 442 visits were made to food premises and it is noted that the standard of food handling is improving. The public are also becoming more conscious of the necessity of clean food preparation and bring to my notice matters they consider should be investigated.

Meat supplied in the town is received from the Government Controlled Slaughterhouse at Alcester, at which all food animals have been slaughtered since 1940. The Ministry of Food are responsible for transporting the meat to the shops and an improved type of body for hanging carcasses was provided, after which no further complaints were received from the butchers as to the condition of the meat delivered.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, exclud- ing cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)					343
Number inspected ...					182
All diseases except Tuberculosis: Whole carcasses condemned ...					—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...					4
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affect- ed with disease other than tuberculosis					2.2%
Tuberculosis only Whole carcasses condemned ...					—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...					9
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affect- ed with tuberculosis					4.9%

The following is a list of other foodstuffs surrendered as unfit for human consumption:—

Uncooked Bacon	...	...	...	45	lbs.
Cooked Bacon	...	...	...	4	„ 14 ozs.
Uncooked Pork	...	...	...	5	„
Cooked Pork	...	...	...	3	„
Uncooked Beef	...	...	...	2	„
Cooked Beef	...	...	...	1	„ 2 „
Corned Beef	...	...	...	0	„ 8 „
Ham	...	...	...	20	„ 4 „
Mutton	...	...	...	60	„
Tinned Meat—Pork, Veal, etc.	...	...	...	76	Tins
Rabbit	...	...	...	4	„
Stewed Steak	...	...	...	3	„
Meat in Gravy	...	...	...	2	„
Tinned Fish	...	...	...	32	„
Fish Paste	...	...	...	4	„
Dab	...	...	...	3	Stone
Megrin	...	...	...	5	„
Pigs Feet	...	...	...	112	lbs.
Sausage	...	...	...	298	„
Tomatoes	...	...	...	134	Tins
Tomato Juice	...	...	...	4	„
Beans	...	...	...	28	„
Carrots	...	...	...	20	„
Peas	...	...	...	36	„
Mixed Vegetables	...	...	...	3	„
Spaghetti	...	...	...	13	„
Spinach	...	...	...	1	„
Soup	...	...	...	24	„
Macedoines	...	...	...	1	„
Piccalilli	...	...	...	24	Jars
Piccalilli Mustard Pickle	...	...	...	38	„
Salad Cream	...	...	...	40	Bottles
Sauce	...	...	...	3	„
Sandwich Spread	...	...	...	152	Tins
Fruit	...	...	...	105	„
Fruit	...	...	...	25	lbs.
Fruit Juice	...	...	...	64	Bottles
Jam	...	...	...	17	lbs. 8 oz.
Marmalade	...	...	...	14	Tins
Golden Syrup	...	...	...	1	„
Cheese	...	...	...	8	lbs. 8 ozs.
Butter	...	...	...	9	„ 2 „
Flour	...	...	...	420	„
Pastry Mix	...	...	...	28	Packets
Cake	...	...	...	20	lbs. 4 ozs.
Coffee	...	...	...	1	Bottle
Chocolate	...	...	...	20	Bars
Full Cream Milk	...	...	...	26	Tins
Evaporated Milk	...	...	...	74	„

ICE CREAM.

Fifty-five premises are registered to retail ice cream, and of these 14 are registered to manufacture. During the year 132 inspections were made and 20 samples taken for analysis. To comply with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations the majority of local manufacturers are making ice cream by the “complete cold mix” method, i.e. ice cream powder subjected to heat treatment and to which mains water only is added. The remainder have obtained suitable equipment for pasteurisation.

A summary of the results of samples taken is as follows:—

Number of samples taken—20.	Grade 1 — 17
	„ 2 — 3
	„ 3 — Nil.
	„ 4 — Nil.

The methylene blue test places the samples in one of four provisional grades. Numbers 1 and 2 are satisfactory and numbers 3 and 4 unsatisfactory, particularly grade 4.

RODENT CONTROL.

Local authority premises, such as refuse tips and sewage works, are regularly inspected and treated when necessary. The analysis of Inspection and Treatment is as follows:—

Inspections:

Number of domestic premises inspected ...	...	...	967
„ „ business „ „ ...	...	...	84
„ „ local authority premises inspected ...	...	...	33
Total number of premises inspected			1,084

Infestations Found:

Total number of infestations found	...	...	...	233
------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----

Analysis of Infestations:

Number of infestations found (Rats) (Major) ...	...	1
" " " " " (Minor) ...	...	211
Total number of infestations of rats found		212
Number of infestations found (Mice) (Major) ...	...	—
" " " " " (Minor) ...	...	21
Total number of infestations of mice found		21

Treatment:

Number of first treatments ...	...	...	...	...	201
„ „ second treatments	...	...	...	...	164
Total number of treatments					365

Analysis of First Treatments:

Number of first treatments (Rats)	(Major)	...	...	1
„ „ „ „	(Minor)	...	...	185
„ „ „ „	(Mice) (Major)	...	...	—
„ „ „ „	„ (Minor)	...	...	15
Total number of first treatments (Rats and Mice)				201

Sewer Maintenance Treatment:

Number of sewer maintenance treatments	...	...	2'
„ „ manholes baited (first treatment)	...	...	107
„ „ „ „ (second treatment)	...	...	126
„ „ „ „ (third treatment)	...	...	—
Total number of manholes baited			233

Analysis of First Treatment:

Bait Base: Bread Mash and Arsenious Oxide (10%).				
Number of manholes test baited (10% of manholes not included in previous treatment)	...	...	...	66
Number of manholes baited (actual treatment)	...	...	...	107
" " " showing prebait take	...	...	...	42
" " " " complete prebait take	...	...	...	21
" " " " partial prebait take	...	...	...	21

Analysis of Second Treatment:

Bait Base: Sausage Rusk with 2½% Zinc Phosphide.				
Number of manholes baited (actual treatment)	...	...	...	126
" " " showing prebait take	...	...	...	19
" " " " complete prebait take	...	...	...	1
" " " " partial prebait take	...	...	...	18

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

Number of pail closets converted into water closets	...	...	56
Number of trough closets converted into water closets	...	...	7

Analysis of sanitary accommodation at the end of 1950:—

Water closets	...	...	9,283
Automatically flushed w.c's.	...	...	30
Waste water closets	...	...	18
Pail closets	...	...	220
Earth closets	...	...	17

HOUSING.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	685
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	1,531
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	115
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	115
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human inhabitation	256
(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	415

REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	...	101
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ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a)	Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.		
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	Nil

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—		
(a) By Owners	Nil	
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil	
(b) Proceeding under Public Health Acts.		
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	314	
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—		
(a) By Owners	208	
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil	
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.		
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil	
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil	
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.		
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1	
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil	
HOUSING ACT, 1936, PART IV., OVERCROWDING.		
(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	78	
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	162	
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	502	
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	78	
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	114	
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	337	
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil	

FACTORIES.

1.—INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

Premises (1)	Number of			
	No. on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be en- forced by Local Authorities ...	57	3	—	—
(2) Factories not in- cluded in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	267	88	—	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises)	8	7	—	—
TOTAL ...	332	98	—	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. In- spector (4)	Referred By H.M. In- spector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	3	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) ...	—	—	—	—	—
(a) insufficient	4	4	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	9	9	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	16	16	—	—	—

I have the honour to be Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

G. H. CHAMPION,

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR.

MOBBS & SPOONER LTD
REDDITCH.